

PREVENT WORLD WAR III
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A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

On September 21, 1954, the Society for the Prevention of World War III, Inc., wrote to President Eisenhower urging a complete re-examination of the present policy toward Germany before granting her full sovereignty and the right to remilitarize. The Society warned that the present policy toward Germany inevitably deepens the disunity which already exists in Western Europe and, therefore, plays into the hands of Communist Russia. The President was told that a sovereign and remilitarized Germany will be in the position to strike a new bargain with Russia at the expense of Western security. The letter further stated that the present German leadership is surrounded by key advisers who are former Nazis and, therefore, cannot be trusted.

Text of the letter signed by the Secretary of the Society, Albert Sward, is furnished below:

September 21, 1954

The President of the United States
Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is the Society's considered judgment that the steady deterioration of our position of leadership in Europe is primarily due to our German policy. That policy has had the effect of creating a resurgent Germany which is employing its power to blackmail the West while laying the groundwork for rapprochement with the Communist East. This ominous situation has created fear among our friends and allies, has provided grist for the Communist propaganda mills and has stimulated disunity in Europe where such unity is essential for American security.

The logic of that policy brought about the fateful decision of the Secretary of State to bypass France in his recent visit to Europe. This unprecedented act of ignoring our historical ally without whom there cannot be any sound and safe solution of the German problem, will inevitably deepen the disunity already existing in Western Europe.

An examination of German diplomacy since the end of the first world war will clearly show that Germany was able to revive her power for predatory purposes and to make deals with Soviet Russia only after she had succeeded in splitting the West. If we grant the Germans full sovereignty and enable her

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to regain military power, the conditions will be created that will make it possible for Germany to strike a new bargain with Russia at the expense of Western security.

According to the Christian Science Monitor (June 30, 1954), a large segment of influential German opinion believes that "the situation calls for German sovereignty without restrictions as well as the right to regulate for themselves their relations with the West." The impact of full sovereignty on Germany's future decisions regarding whether or not she will make a defense contribution to the West was described by Felix von Eckardt, West Germany's press chief (A.P. 9-2-54): "We must have sovereignty first—and only then can we consider (our emphasis) giving some of it up, to international organizations."

Once West Germany obtains full sovereignty, all prior commitments made by West German politicians become subject to abrogation. That Germany, if her interests so dictate, will repudiate the pledges of the present Chancellor, or that he himself may do so, must be expected in the light of Germany's notorious record on that score.

To unbiased students of German politics, the blind confidence reposed in the present German leadership by our Government could place the United States in an untenable position. Is it not shortsighted to pursue a policy the success of which depends on the continued good health and popularity of an aged German politician? Is it not dangerous to trust Adenauer's leadership when among his chief advisers is Hans Globke, head of the Chancellery and a former Nazi functionary who helped prepare the official Commentary on the Nuremberg race laws?

The Globke case is not exceptional. The fact is that the Chancellor is surrounded by other key advisers who are former Nazis, including some members of his cabinet. We cite as examples:

(1) Theodor Oberlander, Minister for Expellees, joined the Nazi Party in 1933. He also became Reichsfuehrer of the Federation of the German East. The Federation was later classified by the Allies as a Nazi Organization.

(2) Waldemar Kraft, Minister without Portfolio in the Adenauer Cabinet, is a former major of Hitler's SS. Kraft worked closely with the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police.

(3) Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of Interior, joined the Nazi Party in 1933.

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(4) Victor Emanuel Trausker, Housing Minister, became a Nazi Storm-Trooper in 1933 and joined the black shirted SS which originated as Hitler's personal guard.

Does this not indicate the futility of our German policy when Chancellor Adenauer apparently cannot find more reliable and less Nazi tainted elements for key positions in his government?

It is our conviction that any firm and lasting defense against possible aggression from the Communist East must first and foremost be based on a complete understanding and solidarity among the three major democratic powers, i.e. England, France and the United States. Our present German policy undermines that solidarity and, therefore, contributes to the strengthening of the Communist position in Europe. We, therefore, urge that our Government re-examine the policy in its entirety before taking any further action in the way of remilitarizing Germany and granting her full sovereignty.

Respectfully submitted,
Society for the Prevention of World War III, Inc.
Albert Sinaard, Secretary.